

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02005 01 OF 02 181139Z

46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 AGR-20 CU-05 IGA-02 SWF-02 DODE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 NASA-04 SCI-06 ACDA-19 PM-07

INT-08 EUR-25 DRC-01 NEAE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01

/261 W

----- 055035

P R 181050Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1478

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAMASCUS 2005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REF: A. STATE 202947; B. STATE 202948; C. DAMASCUS 1919

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN KHADDAM STATES SARG NOT SEEKING ONE ALL EMBRACING GENERAL AGREEMENT GOVERNING US ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUT SEVERAL SPECIFIC ONES. HE AGREES PUT OUR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN TOUCH WITH SYRIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS IMMEDIATELY. HAVE TRIED EDUCATE FONMIN ON SOME DIFFERENCES IN DEALING WITH USG COMPARED WITH EASTERN BLOC, BUT US NEGOTIATORS IN NEW YORK MAY YET FIND HIM PREEMPTORY.
END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02005 01 OF 02 181139Z

2. RESPONSES STATE REFTELS WERE HELPFUL BASIS FOR MEETING

WITH KHADDAM ON EVE HIS DEPARTURE SEPTEMBER 17. AT OUT-SET COMMENTED TO HIM I WAS IMPRESSED WITH SPEED AND FORTH-COMING NATURE OF WASHINGTON ANSWERS BUT, AS HE WOULD SEE, WASHINGTON HAD MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS AT PRESENT. CAUTIONED KHADDAM HE LIKELY TO FIND NEGOTIATING WITH USG ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE FROM DEALINGS HE HAS HAD WITH EASTERN BLOC AND PERHAPS EVEN SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES. WE YIELDED PLACE TO NONE EFFECTIVENESS OUR PROGRAMS BUT WE WOULD NEED CLEAR IDEA OF SYRIA'S DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AS ENUNCIATED BY SYRIAN PLANNERS. USG EMPHASIZED NEED FOR MEETING OF MINDS BETWEEN TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS, RATHER THAN QUICK SIGNING OF HIGH-SOUNDING BUT OVER-GENERALIZED ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS.

3. KHADDAM PROTESTED HE DID NOT EXPECT USG-DAMASCUS TO REACH ONE OVERALL UMBRELLA AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE WANTED A SERIES OF HIGHLY SPECIALIZED AGREEMENTS ADDRESSING EACH OF THE REQUESTS HE HAD MADE SEPTEMBER 10 AND EARLIER IN WASHINGTON. I SAID I REGRETTED IF I HAD MISUNDERSTOOD HIS POSITION DURING LAST WEEK'S TALKS BUT HIS MESSAGE THEN SEEMED CLEAR THAT HE WANTED COMMITMENTS IN PRINCIPLE FROM USG BEFORE HE WOULD ARRANGE ANY MEETINGS BETWEEN WORKING LEVEL EXPERTS. WE DID IN FACT HAVE SOME IDEAS ON A GENERAL AGREEMENT BUT I KNEW DEPARTMENT WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT SIGNING SUCH TEXT WAS NOT A PREREQUISITE TO OUR GETTING DOWN TO SPECIFIC CASES WITH THE SARG.

4. NOTED THAT LIST OF REQUESTS HE HAD PRESENTED LAST WEEK VARIED WIDELY IN THEIR SPECIFICITY. USG WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO RESPOND MEANINGFULLY TO SEVERAL OF THE REQUESTS AS HE HAD PHRASED THEM. FOR EXAMPLE, HIS ASKING THAT WE "SUGGEST AREAS OF COOPERATION" TO SARG WAS TOO GENERAL. KHADDAM RESPONDED THAT SARG WAS AFTER ALL A DEVELOPING THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WITH THE PROBLEMS COMMON TO ALL SUCH COUNTRIES. ALL PROPOSALS BASICALLY REDUCED THEMSELVES TO OFFERING OF (A) LOANS AND (B) GRANTS. GIVEN EXTENT OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN ASSISTING THIRD WORLD, USG SURELY MUST HAVE MODEL PROGRAMS IN MIND FOR HELPING SYRIA IN "AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02005 01 OF 02 181139Z

IN SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT." I REPLIED SEVEN YEARS WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD LEFT WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY LARGELY IGNORANT OF SYRIAN CONDITIONS. WE WOULD BE HIGHLY RELUCTANT VENTURE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON AID PROGRAMS WITH SO INADEQUATE A DATA BASE. HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND, FURTHERMORE, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES. WE COULD NOT MAKE COMMITMENTS IN AREA FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INDEPENDENT OF CONGRESSIONAL

CONSULTATION AND FUNDING. IN SUM, HIS EXPERIENCES IN SOFIA, BUCHAREST AND TEHRAN WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT GUIDES TO HIM IN DESIGNING HIS APPROACH TO WASHINGTON.

5. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES: SAID I WANTED HIS PERMISSION TO GO DIRECTLY TO SYRIAN EXPERTS TO FLESH OUT REQUESTS HE HAD MADE TO US FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. SHORTFALL IN OUR 1974 PRODUCTION MEANT CUT IN QUANTITIES AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE UNDER PL-480. WE SHOULD MOVE FAST TO INSURE THAT WHATEVER AMOUNT WE MIGHT AGREE UPON WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SYRIA. THEREUPON HANDED HIM EMBASSY NOTE REQUESTING DATA FROM SARG MINAG (QUESTIONS AS PER PARA 3 STATE 202948). TO SPEED MATTERS UP SAID I HAD ALSO REQUESTED VISIT SEPTEMBER 18 TO DAMASCUS BY OUR AGATT FROM BEIRUT. TRUSTED KHADDAM WOULD FACILITATE MEETINGS SAME DAY BETWEEN ATTACHE, EMBASSY ECON OFFICER AND SARG MINAG OFFICIALS. KHADDAM AGREED TO DO SO.

6. ERTS-SKYLAB: RELAYED WASHINGTON RESPONSE TO HIS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SKYLAB AND NOTED THIS SHOWED THAT THE MORE SPECIFIC WERE SARG REQUESTS THE MORE MEANINGFUL OUR RESPONSE. SAID I WOULD BE WILLING EARMARK FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER EMBASSY'S CU BUDGET TO SEND SYRIAN EXPERT TO STATES FOR CONSULTATION WITH COLLEAGUES IN NASA, USGS, ETC.

7. EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE: KHADDAM OBSERVED EVEN A WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY SUCH AS FRANCE WAS ABLE COMMIT BLOCK OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO DAMASCUS. REPLIED WE DID NOT WORK THIS WAY. WE CANNOT OBLIGE US UNIVERSITIES TO ACCEPT SYRIAN STUDENTS. RECOGNIZING HOW IMPORTANT WHOLE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM EVIDENTLY WAS FOR SARG, WE DID NOT WISH TO START OFF WITH BASIS ANY MISUNDERSTANDING. THERE WERE CERTAIN SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES WHICH MIGHT BE FUNDED BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DAMASC 02005 01 OF 02 181139Z

AID FOLLOWING OUR AGREEMENT TO ASSIST ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS. ADDED THAT GIVEN TIME, EFFORT AND IMAGINATION I WAS HOPEFUL WE COULD WORK OUT PROGRAM WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE RESULTS WE BOTH DESIRED, I.E., SIZABLE NUMBER OF SYRIAN GRADUATES RECEIVING SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02005 02 OF 02 181147Z

46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 AGR-20 CU-05 IGA-02 SWF-02 DODE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 NASA-04 SCI-06 ACDA-19 PM-07

INT-08 EUR-25 NEAE-00 DRC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01

/261 W

----- 055185

P R 181050Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1479

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAMASCUS 2005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHINCAL ASSISTANCE

8. ADVISED KHADDAM THAT AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER WOULD MEET WITH HIM WHILE HE IN THE STATES. THEY WOULD HAVE AVAILABLE TEXT OF 1960 US ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH UAR FOR HIS REVIEW. THAT DOCUMENT, WHICH MADE THREE PREVIOUS US-UAR AGREEMENTS OF 1951 AND 1954 APPLICABLE TO SYRIA, TO BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE WAS LAST GENERAL AGREEMENT REGULATING ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SYRIA, THEN NORTHERN PROVINCE OF UAR. WE BELIEVED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL TO HAVE SOME SUCH GENERAL UNDERSTANDING FORMALIZED THROUGH A DOCUMENT LIKE THE 1960 AGREEMENT, OR ALTERNATIVELY THROUGH EXCHANGE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02005 02 OF 02 181147Z

NOTES BETWEEN THIS EMBASSY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE WOULD BE FLEXIBLE. EMPHASIZED THAT THE ONE MESSAGE I WANTED TO BE SURE HE UNDERSTOOD WAS WASHINGTON'S READINESS TO MOVE RAPIDLY IN DEVELOPING AND COMING TO AGREEMENT ON

PROGRAMS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH SYRIA, IN KEEPING WITH COMMITMENTS SECRETARY HAD MADE TO HIM.

9. COMMENT: THIS WAS USEFUL OPENER IN TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO KHADDAM THAT USG IS IN SOME BASIC WAYS DIFFERENT BREED OF CAT THAN BLOC GOVERNMENTS OR OIL RICH STATES WITH WHICH HE MORE FAMILIAR. ON SEPTEMBER 10 KHADDAM HAD RATTLED OFF SYRIA'S REQUESTS, PRESENTING US WITH VIRTUAL "DIKTAT." THIS SESSION PROVIDED A MORE GENUINE EXCHANGE. US OFFICIALS IN MEETING FIRST TIME WITH KHADDAM, HOWEVER, I EXPECT WILL FIND HIM APPARENTLY PREEMPTORY, DEMANDING AND IMPATIENT. HE DOES WELCOME, HOWEVER, REPLIES AS DIRECT AND BLUNT AS THE QUESTIONS HE POSES. HE IS A COCKY AND SELF-ASSURED OFFICIAL WHO NONETHELESS APPRECIATES A JOKE AND WARMS TO SIGNS OF SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN HIMSELF AND HIS COUNTRY.

10. EVEN IF HE IS NOT SEEKING ONE SINGLE ACCORD OR SEVERAL WRITTEN COMMITMENTS IN PRINCIPLE BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO CASES WITH US, KHADDAM PROFESSES STILL TO WANT EARLY COMMITMENTS ON ASSISTANCE EXPRESSED IN SEPARATE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. I ASSUME BASED ON STATE REFTELS WE WILL BE ABLE MOVE QUICKEST IN AGREEING ON AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND THEN PERHAPS IN WELL DEFINED AREA SUCH AS ERTS-SKYLAB.

11. BASED ON MEETINGS WITH KHADDAM AND OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIALS TO DATE, CONSIDER WE WILL HAVE TO DO SOME MORE SERIOUS THINKING ON MATCHING UP SYRIAN EXPECTATIONS WITH US PROPOSALS FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS. GETTING SYRIAN SPECIALISTS AND DOCTORAL CANDIDATES IN LARGE NUMBERS TO STATES IS CLEARLY RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE SYRIAN WANT LIST. IN THIS CONNECTION I HAVE WRITTEN FORD FOUNDATION REP BEIRUT ASKING FOR EARLY MEETING TO HEAR FORD PLANS RE RENEWAL THZIR FORMERLY SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SYRIA. HAVE ALSO WRITTEN AFME DIRECTOR CRIPPEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02005 02 OF 02 181147Z

IN WASHINGTON ASKING ABOUT PROSPECTS HIS REOPENING OFFICE IN DAMASCUS. REQUEST ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS DEPARTMENT HAS IN AREA OF DEVELOPING SOURCES FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AND STUDENT COUNSELING. POSSIBILITY OF OIL RICH ARABS HELPING OUT IS GOOD IDEA. ABU DHABI, I UNDERSTAND, IS PARTICULARLY KEEN TO DO SOMETHING FOR SYRIA AND I WILL BE TAKING SOUNDING DIRECTLY WITH AMBASSADOR STERNER ON THIS.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, EDUCATION GRANTS, EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740261-0547
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740936/aaaabekj.tel
Line Count: 274
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 202947; B. STATE 202948; C.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, SY, US, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005